



ENG 1302.9SE
Written Argument / Research
COURSE SYLLABUS SPRING 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Rachel C. Finney, M.A.

Office Location: Sulphur Springs High School, Room 211

Office Hours: 11:27 am-12:56 pm and 3:35-4:30 pm by appt. on Tues/Thurs

Office Phone: 903.885.2158

Email Address: Rachel.Finney@tamuc.edu or rfinney@ssisd.net

Preferred Form of Communication: e-mail

Communication Response Time: 12 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: For this course, we will be using a platform called Top Hat that is included through East Texas A&M's Inclusive Access fee that was charged to your bursar account when you registered for this course. **You will not need to make any additional purchases.** Top Hat will be accessible through our course shell in D2L.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

While you will receive an email about being able to opt out of this inclusive access, Top Hat is required for the course.

To gain access to Top Hat, you will create an account using your LeoMail (university email) when you receive an email from the campus bookstore. Be on the lookout for this email at the start of the semester.

If you have any issues with Top Hat, you should contact support@tophat.com. PLEASE create a password that you can remember.

To join Top Hat, you must click on the *Top Hat* link in your D2L course on a web browser. A Deep Link or the Top Hat launch link should be in the “Content” menu. Upon being re-directed to Top Hat, you can create an account if you are new to Top Hat or log in if you have an existing account. ***Please follow your teacher’s specific directions and report any access issues immediately.***

Through Top Hat, you will gain access to the following course materials:

Johnson, Gavin P., Ashanka Kumari, Emily Littlejohn, Brian McShane, and Rachel McShane, Eds. *Writing Inquiry* [2023 edition]. Top Hat.

Software Required:

- D2L
- Top Hat
- LeoMail
- A word processing program: *Students have free access to [Office 365](#).*
- Printer

Course Description

ENG 1302–Written Argument / Research • 3 credit hours

This course provides students with advanced training in communication skills emphasizing the writing and reading of argumentative prose and adapting writing to alternate audiences. Students will write weekly, including such texts as journals, reading response logs, summaries of argumentative texts, argumentative papers, and longer papers integrating secondary research. Activities include close reading of sample texts: student, literary, and professional. Some sections will emphasize special topics in both reading and writing. Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in English 1301 or advanced placement or CLEP.

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Core Curriculum Course Objectives

- **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
- **Communication Skills:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
- **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal;
- **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making;

English 1302 Learning Outcomes

- **Define** important terms/concepts including, but not limited to, literacy, community, research, ethics, knowledge, ethnography, and writing processes;
- **Discuss** the ways these terms expand based on cultural and communicative practices;
- **Locate** scholarly research related to key terms/concepts;
- **Examine** scholarly, personal, and/or multimodal texts that detail varying understandings and applications of key terms/concepts;
- **Develop** writing and research processes appropriate for ethically studying the literacy of a specific community;
- **Engage** in collaboration that supports individualized and communal understanding and writing development;
- **Collect** primary ethnographic data;
- **Organize** collected data in order to understand specific literacy community practices;
- **Consider** the various affordances and constraints of composing using different technologies (analog, digital, and/or multimodal), research methods, practices, styles, and/or languages;

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- **Compose** texts across different genres and media of writing that further expand key terms/concepts based on primary ethnographic research and engagement with trustworthy secondary research;
- **Reflect** on your writing experiences and literacy practices;
- **Design** individualized learning goals appropriate for a first-year writing course;
- **Assess** individualized learning goals based on labor and performance alongside feedback from peers and the instructor.

Instructional Methods

This is a f2f class with online course time. Please allow ample time to complete all readings and assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

It is expected that you will participate in Top Hat every week, usually on multiple occasions. Students are expected to be in class and complete all assignments in a timely manner. To succeed in this course, you should also complete all the required reading and activities in Top Hat.

You will not have access to your phone during class. Phones are a huge distraction. You are here to learn. Be present. You are also not allowed to play games or watch videos during class, even if you have completed assignments. You will not be allowed to be excused from class unless it is an OFFICIAL school-related absence. Additionally, when you are absent from class for ANY REASON, it is your responsibility to complete make-up assignments in a timely manner; typically you will be allowed the number of days you were absent to make-up missed reading and assignments.

Further, you are responsible for checking your grades in D2L and for checking **BOTH** email accounts **DAILY**. Please allow notifications on your phone for both email accounts AND Google Classroom.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Midterm and final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

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B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%
F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Writing Assignments	40%
Narrating Your Literacies	10%
Understanding Literacies: Preliminary	
Topic Proposal and Annotated Bibliography	10%
Digital Literacies + Ethics	10%
Ethnographic Research Proposal	10%
Quizzes / Daily Activities	20%
English 1302 Semester Portfolio	20%
The Learning Showcase	10%
March Madness Entries + Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

Assignments

Full prompts for assignments are available in Top Hat and/or D2L. Course Outline is forthcoming,

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements. In the event of school cancelled due to inclement weather, we may hold classes on Zoom.

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

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https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

You will need:

- Flash drive or other means (dropbox.com account, for example) of storing digital versions of the essays and other written material you generate (always, always keep a backup of everything you turn in).
- A valid, working TAMU-C email address that you check **EVERY DAY**. I will email the class through D2L, so be sure that that email is the one you check.
- Consistent internet access.
- Access to a computer with a word processing program and a printer (assignments must be typed and uploaded through D2L in a doc or docx file).

You will ALSO need to turn in a printed copy of each assignment / essay.

Additional Supplies Needed

You will also need:

- Pen or pencil, multiple colors of highlighters
- Notebook paper
- Spiral for note-taking
- Folder in which to keep ALL returned paper assignments / information
- Index Cards (white with lines AND in color with lines)
- Notebook for portfolio Writing Portfolio Assignment
- Materials for physical project

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. **If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.**

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Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an East Texas A&M campus open computer lab, etc. If you complete the assignments before the deadline, you can alleviate most of these issues because you will have time to troubleshoot.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Participation will be counted partly through your use of Top Hat (10%) and partly through the work you do in class discussions (online or f2f), in drafting your writing assignments, in group work, etc. When you answer the Before and After Reading questions in Top Hat, you will gain participation points. **If you miss a deadline, you must contact your instructor to ask for extra time to work. In the case of an absence, you will have as many days as you were absent to make up these assignments unless there are extenuating circumstances; in which case, I will evaluate each student on a case-by-case basis. Late work will receive a letter grade deduction for major assignments.**

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I will respond to your emails within 12 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. If you do not hear from me in that time frame, please contact me again. Remember, email glitches sometimes. So, always email again if you do not hear a response. Also, feel free to text me at 903.438.6283 about school-related assignments and questions only.

Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with **Dr. Gavin P. Johnson, the Director of Writing** (gavin.johnson@tamuc.edu). In the case when the Director of Writing is the instructor, the student should contact **Dr. Christian Hempelmann, Chair of the Department of Literature and Languages** (c.hempelmann@tamuc.edu). Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation").

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Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).
<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Non-Discrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Check the SSHS Student Handbook for further attendance policies.

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AI Use in Courses

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

IT IS MY PERSONAL PREFERENCE THAT YOU AVOID AI AND COMPLETE YOUR ASSIGNMENTS WITHOUT ACCESSING IT IN ANY WAY.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty
13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

To measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, throughout the semester, I will collect some of the ungraded texts you produce. The texts will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation" (see "Department of Institutional Effectiveness,"

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx>).

This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

Students with Disabilities–ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC)

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46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WEAPONS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON CAMPUS AT SSISD CAMPUSES.

RESOURCES

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Writing Center

The Writing Center offers writers free, one-on-one assistance. We welcome all writers, majors, and disciplines—undergraduate and graduate students alike. In fact, we work from the premise that all writers, no matter their ability level, benefit from the feedback of knowledgeable readers. The Writing Center staff is trained to provide writers with just this service. In short, we are here to help you help yourself. The Writing Center offers one-on-one sessions with writers—both face-to-face and online—begin on the hour and last up to 45 minutes. You cannot sign up for back-to-back appointments, but you may sign up for as many appointments as you'd like each day and week. For more information, visit <https://www.tamuc.edu/writing-center>

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Library

The Velma Waters Library supports the research, learning and teaching interests of students, faculty and staff. Connect with a librarian, explore our research and course guides, and attend workshops.

- **Chat with a Librarian!** Get immediate assistance with our [chat service](#) on the main Library page: <https://www.tamuc.edu/library/>
- **Email** ask@tamuc.libanswers.com. We will respond to your email within 24 hours, often much sooner.
- **Text** your question to 903.225.2862.
- **Call** the Waters Library at 903.886.5718 or contact the librarian for your college/department to discuss your research needs.
- **Meet With Us!** Don't stay up all night searching Google. Schedule a one-on-one consultation held in-person or via Zoom with the librarian for your college/academic department.
- **Visit Us!** We'd love to meet you in-person!
 - Waters Library Research Office: Second Floor, Room 213
 - Waters Library University Archives: 4th Floor, Room 406A
 - A&M – Commerce at Mesquite Metroplex Center: Second Floor, Study Room

Student Career Preparedness Office

Meet with career advisors who can help you with the resources and tools needed to prepare you for your next phase after graduation and beyond. To schedule an appointment, you can either call 903.468.3223, emailing hirealion@tamuc.edu or go online by clicking [schedule an appointment](#).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Academic Calendars

East Texas A&M University : <https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/academicCalendars/>

Sulphur Springs ISD: <https://www.ssisd.net/page/Calendar>

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